

deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In particular, the Examiner asserts that the present application includes the following:

Species I is the seal shown in Figures 3A-3C; species II is the seal shown in Figures 4A-4F; species III is the seal shown in Figures 5A-5E; species IV is the seal shown in Figure 5F-5H; species V is the seal shown in Figures 6A-6C; species VI is the seal shown in Figures 6D-6F; species VII is the seal shown in Figures 7A-7E; species VIII is the seal shown in Figures 7A-7C and 7F-J; species IX is the seal shown in Figures 7A-7C and 7K-7L; species X is the seal shown in Figures 7A-7C and 7M; species XI is the seal shown in Figures 8A-8C; species XII is the seal shown in Figures 9A-9C; species XIII is the seal shown in Figures 9A and 9D; species XIV is the seal shown in Figures 10A-3C; species XV is the seal shown in Figures 11A-11C; species XVI is the seal shown in Figures 12A-12C; species XVII is the seal shown in Figures 13A-13D; and species XVIII is the seal shown in Figure 14.

In response to this election of species, further to PCT Rule 13. 1 and 13.2, Applicants elect the general inventive concept of an elastically deformable material. This feature is recited in dependent claims 5-8, 9-19, 25-28, 31-32, 33-34, and 39.

The election of the elastically deformable material corresponds to species II, including figures 4A-4F, as identified by the Examiner.

Applicants further agree with the Examiner's assertion that claims 1-4 and 40-54 are generic to all species.

Applicants reserve the right to file additional generic claims, as well as the right to file divisional applications.

In view of the above election, Applicants respectfully request the examination of claims 1-19, 25-28, 31-32, 33-39, and 40-54 in connection with the present application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for a four (4) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required \$740.00 extension fee herewith.

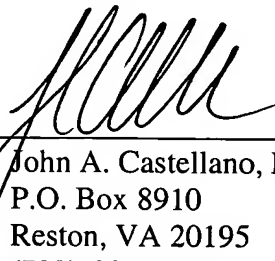
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Very truly yours,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, PLC

By



John A. Castellano, Reg. 35,094
P.O. Box 8910
Reston, VA 20195
(703) 668-8000

JAC/cah